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Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project (FISP)

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Reclamation has been a member agency and supported FISP since its inception in 1939.

The accuracy and usability of sediment data were affected by the lack of standardization of equipment and techniques. In its nearly 60-year history, FISP and its staff have produced over 80 reports and papers. FISP equipment and techniques are the standards used by most Federal, State, and local agencies and by many private companies collecting sediment data in the United States. Dozens of sediment samplers have been developed by FISP. The basic objective of FISP is to seek solutions to problems within the field of sedimentation that are of common concern to the participating agencies and where solution through cooperative action by the interagency group offers distinct advantages. Areas of interest and activities include research and development of sediment-sampling equipment, sediment sampling methods, laboratory techniques for analyzing sediment samples, and technologies for automatically measuring sediment in streams. Major areas of focus in FY 1999 included developing of three non-contaminating samplers for water quality sampling, bed material sampling guidelines for gravel bed streams, and issues associated with bedload measurements.

To maintain the quality and availability of sediment data, samplers, and sampling and analysis techniques by providing resources to help develop more efficient samplers and techniques using state-of-the-art technologies.

Development of non-contaminating samplers to meet requirements for water quality sampling has continued. These samplers will be used to help broaden the data available to study the increasing interconnection between water quality and sedimentation issues. Development of new technologies that can be applied successfully to sediment sampling and analysis is one of FISP's top priorities. FISP is also preparing to respond to EPA's upcoming clean sediment requirements and TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) criteria.

US Geological Survey, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Bureau of Land Management, the USDA Forest Service, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

FISP reports will be available from the FISP website: "Pipet and X-ray Grain-size Analyzers: Comparison of Methods and Basic Data" and "Measuring Suspended-Sediment Entering Reservoirs."

Reports reviewed by the FISP Technical Committee:

Ryan, Sandra E., and Laurie Porth. 1999. Comparing 3 Devices Used to Measure Bedload Transport. *Journal of Geomorphology*.

Bunte, Kristin, and Steven Abt. Sampling Surface and Subsurface Particle-size Distributions in Gravel-bed

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Streams. (To be published as a Forest Service document.)

Testing should be complete on the US XDH-95, a clean, handline sampler; the committee may vote to approve this sampler in FY 2000.